

**Summary and Accomplishments
for
California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team Meeting
August 19, 2006, San Francisco, California**

1 Introduction

This report summarizes the meeting of the California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team held on August 19, 2006 at the US EPA building in San Francisco, California. The meeting was convened by the Team Chairman, Marty Golden, the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator. Summarized below are some of the key accomplishments resulting from the first Team meeting and meeting action items.

2 Actions (summary)

Committees - Several committees were formed to address key issues – membership in committees is open to additional Team Members. Committees established include (details in section 10):

Public Relations Committee: Golden, Bacon, Jones, Wilson, Working, and Murphy

Angler Involvement Committee: Golden, Bacon, Jones, Martin, and Murphy

Hooking Mortality Reduction Committee: Golden

Slot Limit Committee: Working and Golden

Cooperative Research Committee: Bacon and Golden

Surf Perch Research Committee: Ken Jones and Golden

Follow Up – Actions identified by Team for follow up by Team include:

- ___ Darby & Golden will prepare the NOAA Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Action Plan for 2007
- ___ Darby & Golden will work with RBFF to identify projects to enhance public perception of anglers
- ___ Golden & Team Members will identify potential future meeting dates and locations
- ___ Golden to serve as clearing house to have grant opportunities listed on Team Discussion Board etc.
- ___ Golden will review Hannon rockfish study for possible expansions that may be needed
- ___ Golden will look into developing a grant writing seminar
- ___ Golden will investigate ways to involve the Recreational Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) recreational diver program for collecting stock data
- ___ Golden will investigate mechanisms for funding travel to Action Team Meetings
- ___ Golden will poll Action Team Members to determine desirability of maintaining and/or expanding the Action Team Discussion Board
- ___ Golden will expand e-mail list of anglers to be notified of issues and activities of interest
- ___ Golden will gather information regarding Sportfish Restoration Act Programs with help from USFWS and CDFG.
- ___ Martin will provide names of spearfishing organizations that may provide contributions to Team
- ___ Jones continue to represent anglers regarding artificial reef issues re Montrose Settlement Program.

3 Background

NOAA is a fisheries conservation and management partner with the fishing community, state and tribal managers, and other federal agencies. In its role as the marine fisheries steward for the Nation, the Agency seeks close collaboration with recreational fishing stakeholders and carries this out through the Partnerships and Communications Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries. These collaborations enhance the management and conservation of recreational fisheries, their associated habitats, and their related ecosystems.

To further the Agency goals, NOAA, working with the sportfishing community, developed and published in 2005, “A Vision for Marine Recreational Fisheries, NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan, FY 2005-2010”. The plan, available at the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service website at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/recfish/index.hjtm, charts the course for NOAA activities related to sportfishing. To help focus activities at the regional level, the Plan calls for the creation of Regional Saltwater Sportfishing Action Teams, such as the California Team.

The California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team first met in July, 2005 and included about 15 representatives from the California saltwater fishing community and 15 representatives from interested government agencies (see Appendix 1 for details of membership). The meeting included presentations by members regarding their activities and visions related to saltwater sport fishing. The Team generated an inventory of projects and programs they were involved with and identified issues and gaps in information that can be used for developing priorities and actions for the future.

4 Meeting Goals and Objectives

The focus of the meeting was to identify and prioritize issues related to saltwater sportfishing and then prioritize information gaps related to science, outreach and management. The results of this process were then used to craft plans to achieve highest priority needs. Outcomes from this meeting will be used by Team members and their organizations to help bring positive changes to saltwater sportfishing in California. Additionally, the information developed at this meeting will be used to develop the NOAA Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Action Plan for 2007.

5 Accomplishments for 2006

The meeting of the first California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team led to a number of accomplishments that are listed below. This list is based on input from various Team members received to date and may be expanded upon when supplemental information is received.

NOAA (Headquarters)

- Began development of the National Fish Habitat Initiative Program Recreational Fisheries Action Plan.

- Continue to work with the NOAA Statistical Division to enhance National recreational fisheries data programs (MRFSS, CRFS, etc).

NOAA (Recreational Fisheries Services Team)

- Completed Summary Report from First Action Team meeting, posted to the website, and copies provided to Team Members and interested public.

5 Accomplishments for 2006 (continued)

NOAA (Recreational Fisheries Services Team)

- Developed a web based discussion board the Team Members in cooperation with Chris Hall and Coastside Fishing Club
- Convened informal meeting of Team members attending the Fred Hall Fishing and Boating Show in Long Beach, CA
- Received a grant to develop a fishing line recycling program at public piers and shore fishing sites in collaboration with United Pier and Shore Anglers of California.
- Expanded the NOAA Youth Fishing Program in collaboration with United Anglers of Southern California, 976 Tuna, and Friends of Rollo.
- Serve on the Pacific RecFIN Technical Committee providing input to program design and implementation.
- Continue to support the administration and operation of the California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team.
- Continue to serve on the Interagency Decommissioning Working Group (IDWG) to coordinate on issues related to decommissioning offshore oil and gas structures.
- Continue to work with the Montrose Settlement Program to facilitated the use of artificial reefs to mitigate for lost and degraded fishing opportunities.
- Continue to conduct community outreach by participating in sportfishing events, developing and distributing educational materials for the public and angling community, participating on radio/TV programs, conducting public presentations, and working with print media to cover important sportfishing related issues and events.
- Support research and outreach related to hooking mortality.

NOAA (Southwest Fisheries Science Center)

- Economist, Stephen Stohs, is in the process of developing a charter boat economic study to measure the economic benefits of the West Coast highly migratory species CPFV fleet.
- Fisheries Biologist Suzy Kohin and others published the annual Billfish Newsletter, provides information about billfish tagging programs and other billfish information.
- Fisheries Biologist Suzy Kohin and others continued 14 shark research projects related to improved stock assessment. Several projects that focus on mako, blue, and thresher sharks include 10+ years of time series data.

NOAA (Southwest Office of Law Enforcement), continue to conduct youth school education program in Long Beach area.

NOAA Marine Protected Area Office (Santa Cruz, CA): Charlie Wahle, reported the MPA Center hosted a workshop (Oct 2005) with recreational fishers, scientists and managers focused on 'benthic-pelagic linkages' and the use of vertical zoning to manage pelagic fishing while ensuring the conservation of bottom-dwelling biological communities within MPAs. Participants identified fundamental science-based guidelines for vertical zoning that have been used to forge consensus driven MPA network options for the Central CA MLPA process.

NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program: Provided a \$5,000 Grant to charter vessel operator (Captain Dave Bacon) for a cooperative research project for a calico bass (kelp bass) tagging project in cooperation with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to define fish movement between closed and open fishing areas.

5 Accomplishments for 2006 (continued)

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (La Jolla, CA)

Fisheries Biologist, Kurt Schaefer, continues cooperative tagging program with anglers for yellowfin tuna and wahoo at the Revillagigedo Islands Biosphere (Baja, Mexico).
Additional trip planed for 2007.

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

California Sportfishing Survey (CRFS) – Part of the RecFIN recreational fisheries data collection program – includes NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission as cooperating partners.

Fishing Passport Program – Program designed to get more people involved in sportfishing – working with wide range of groups to sponsor related events. Three summer “Kids Programs” were completed (June-August) and the program will a full scale launch of the program is set for January 1, 2007.

Charter Vessel Operator – Captain Dave Bacon

Started a calico bass (kelp bass) tagging project in cooperation with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to define fish movement between closed and open fishing areas.

Prepared numerous articles for publication in Pacific Coast Sportfishing Magazine and other publications.

Working to obtain a grant to address with marine debris issues.

United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC) – Ken Jones

Started working on a grant in collaboration with the NOAA Marine Debris Program and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a fishing line recycling program at public piers and shore fishing sites.

Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) – Jim Martin & Joel Greenburg

Continue to be involved with the California Marine Life Protection Act process related to the creation of marine protected areas and no-take zones with a present focus on central California.

United Anglers of Southern California (UASC)

Cooperate with NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, 976 Tuna, and Friends of Rollo to sponsor youth fishing programs

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance-Fishery Enhancement and Research Foundation

Completed development of a rockfish identification poster in cooperation with CDFG and involved with distribution, esp. to charter boat operators.

California State University, Long Beach – Chris Lowe, and others

Completed preliminary work on rockfish barotrauma study to determine ways to reduce decompression mortality

6 Issue Ranking

The Team identified numerous issues related to saltwater sportfishing and ranked the issues of highest priority. The purpose of developing this ranking was to help focus priorities related to more specific issues related to science outreach, and management.

Table 1 Top Sportfishing Issues*

Issue Description	California Ranking	National Ranking
Better capture the economic value of sportfishing	1	4
Enhanced science for stock <u>assessment</u> for key sportfish species including rockfish and HMS	2	1
Enhanced science on the role of MPAs	3	2
Enhanced science on the role of stock <u>enhancement</u> for recreational fisheries	3	6
Enhanced education and outreach (i.e. youth fishing programs and conservation education materials such as ethical angler program)	3	3
Enhanced public image of anglers	3	6
MRFSS – CRFS: improved communication and data	4	-
Enhance anglers understanding of the management process (i.e. allocation)	4	5
Facilitate habitat restoration, improvement, and protection related to having healthy sportfisheries	5	6
Enhanced angler access to fishing sites	5	4
Bycatch reduction for anglers & commercial fishermen (including release mortality reduction)	-	4
Enhanced science on the role of artificial reefs (incl. oil platforms)	-	-

* Note: Issues were ranked as related to California and from a National perspective. Although all issues were not ranked it was agreed that all were important.

7 Science Gaps Ranking

The Team identified numerous science information gaps related to saltwater sportfishing and ranked the gaps of highest priority. Notes on dealing with the top few information gaps are provided below the ranking list, the Action section provides the direction for future efforts.

Table 2 Top Science Gaps Ranking*

Issue Description	California Ranking	National Ranking
Expand cooperative research opportunities & programs that involve angling community (i.e. MPA related projects)	1	2
Stock assessment	2	1
Explore sources of additional funding for research including the USFWS Sportfish Restoration Program, Aquatic Resource's Trust Fund (16 U.S.C. Sec. 9504), and energy producers)	2	2
Expand recreational fisheries surveys (CRFS & Others?) to ensure sufficient data for good decision making (esp. private boat data)	3	-
Create a study or a study team that estimates long-term impacts to recreational fishing from proposed regulatory changes	3	3
Enhance State - Federal Collaboration on research projects	4	-
Conduct a survey of the public perception of anglers	4	-
Marine Protected Areas research	5	1
Stock enhancement	5	4
Expand research on impacts of marine debris and habitat alteration	5	3
Enhance research related to seafood consumption advisories	-	4
Create Research Clearing House to avoid duplication and enhance dissemination of information	-	3
Economic valuation study of recreational fishing, including shore & pier fishing	**	**
Provide better angler access to socioeconomic data (in understandable terms)	***	***
Enhance Angler awareness and understanding of angler surveys & research	***	***
Promote broad understanding of research goals & priorities	***	***

* Note: Gaps were ranked as related to California and from a National perspective. Although all gaps were not ranked it was agreed that all were important.

** Since this is an important on going study by NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, the Team did not believe it needed to be ranked at this time.

*** Considered to be outreach activities.

7 Science Gaps Ranking (continued)

Several specific research projects and/or programs were identified for expansion and or funding as soon as is possible, including:

- A) Expand funding for cooperative research related to fish movement between closed and open areas. Research such as that being conducted by Captain Dave Bacon should be expanded in area and time. Consider expanding this kind of research to other species. (MPA related)
- B) Review the rockfish study being conducted by Doyle Hannon to determine what, if any, expansions that may be needed.
- C) Determine the need for a special study on kayak fishing. Study would be used to determine if kayak fishing is being adequately represented by CRFS or if additional survey efforts are needed.
- D) Evaluate the need for a study of surf perch
- E) Expand research related to reducing hooking mortality (methodology and devices) – such as cooperative work with the Golden Gate Fishermen’s Association (Doyle Hannon?) and California State Long Beach related research (barotrauma & fish tracking studies)
- F) Expand research related to promoting slot limits for fish species that have the potential for enhancing recreational fisheries if implemented.

8 Outreach Gaps Ranking

The Team identified numerous outreach information gaps related to saltwater sportfishing and ranked the gaps of highest priority. The Action section provides the direction for future efforts.

The Team determined that there were two overriding outreach objectives that should be addressed by the specific outreach programs and projects identified in Table 3, below. The primary outreach goals should be:

- Develop outreach campaign focused on non-anglers regarding the positive aspects and benefits of recreational fishing for the community/general public.
- Expand outreach programs for anglers - more use of media and other venues to enhance understanding of science, conservation, and resource ownership.

8 Outreach Gaps Ranking (continued)

Table 3 Top Outreach Gaps Ranking*

Issue Description	California Ranking	National Ranking
Public relations campaign to enhance positive perceptions of the public about recreational fishing	1	1
Support California (California Department of Fish and Game) Fishing Passport Program	1	2
Develop a mechanism for coordinating the voice of California saltwater anglers on key issues	1	5
Expand Ethical (Responsible) Angling Programs	2	3
Develop school lesson plans that feature marine conservation and ethical angling	3	4
Create a "saltwater anglers beginner program". Program would provide discounts for fishing gear, training programs, youth fishing programs, etc. Sponsors could include media (i.e. Ron Kovack's Pen Fishing University), manufactures, and retailers	3	3
Develop programs to motivate more anglers to be involved in fisheries management issues	4	-
Develop a communication plan/system to keep anglers informed about issues and initiatives that may have an impact of recreational fisheries	5	-
Develop Video/DVDs for schools & provide speakers – address ethical angling	5	5
Enhance outreach activities and the development of materials related to seafood consumption advisories	5	5
Sponsor and develop a mobile van/truck display to support angler education and outreach	**	**
Develop Videos/DVDs to expand on the NMFS Video "Fish for Tomorrow". Catch-and-Release, conservation, etc.	***	***
Develop and maintain user friendly list(s) of outreach activities, resources, and programs that is web based	-	-
Target aquaria, zoos, and museums as venues for saltwater sportfishing outreach and education	-	5
Increase information related to regulations and fishing licenses on web sites	#	-

* Note: Gaps were ranked as related to California and from a National perspective. Although all gaps were not ranked it was agreed that all were important.

** Component of Ethical Angler Program

*** Component of Ethical Angler Program; low priority

Presently on going California Department of Fish and Game Program

9 Management Gaps Ranking

The Team identified numerous management information gaps related to saltwater sportfishing and ranked the gaps of highest priority. The Action section provides the direction for future efforts.

Table 4 Top Management Gaps Ranking*

Issue Description	California Ranking	National Ranking
Enhance angler access and involvement in the management process (i.e. new technologies, revised processes).	1	2
Develop and promote collaborative opportunities between recreational fishing organizations and the commercial fishing industry	1	3
Expand influence of recreational fishing community in government activities that can enhance recreational fishing	2	2
Enhance agency focus on issues related to terrestrial impacts on the marine environment	3	1
Establish a daily bag limit for albacore (presently there is no bag limit – 10 suggested)	3	5
Develop a plan and/or system to advocate for the adequate use of resources and funds for priority needs	3	4
Establish a daily bag limit for giant squid (presently there is no bag limit)	3	-
CA Saltwater fishing license for all anglers over 16 in an <u>automated</u> data system (presently pier anglers are not required to have a license and system is not fully automated yet)	3	-
Establish a daily bag limit for sanddabs (presently there is no bag limit)	-	-
Promote the creation of ocean parks for fisheries management, with a balanced approach to resource allocation	-	-
Examine issue of accountability and responsibility of sportfishing charters knowingly fishing in potentially contaminated waters	-	-
Track and be involved in the reviews for the renewal of power plant licenses to ensure that impacts related to impingement and entrainment are adequately addressed	**	**

* Note: Gaps were ranked as related to California and from a National perspective. Although all gaps were not ranked it was agreed that all were important.

** Component of “Terrestrial impacts to marine environment” – ranked # 1 Nationally

10a Actions (follow up) – Committees

- Public Relations Committee: Marty Golden form committee. Members to date include Dave Bacon, Ken Jones, Carrie Wilson, Paul Working, and Michael Murphy. Committee focus will include informing the public about the benefits of sportfishing, developing a mechanism for coordinating the voice of CA anglers on key issues, support the CDFG Passport Fishing Program, creation of a campaign on negative public perceptions of fishing and support an expanded ethical angler program.
- Angler Involvement Committee: Marty Golden form committee. Members to date include Dave Bacon, Ken Jones, Jim Martin, and Michael Murphy. Committee focus will include enhancing angler access and involvement in the management process (i.e. webcasts, conference calls, message board polls), developing collaborative opportunities between the sport and commercial fishing communities, and expanding the influence of the angling community.
- Hooking Mortality Reduction Committee: Marty Golden form committee to evaluate specific research needs related to reducing hooking mortality (methodology and devices).
- Slot Limit Committee: Catch 22 Fisheries, Captain Paul Working and Marty Golden form committee to evaluate research needs related to promoting slot limits for fish species that have the potential for enhancing recreational fisheries if implemented.
- Cooperative Research Committee: Captain Dave Bacon and Marty Golden form a committee to investigate specific cooperative research needs and opportunities (including funding sources) –such as increasing the number of species being studied for migratory patterns related marine protected areas fishing closures.
- Surf Perch Research Committee: United Pier and Shore Anglers of California, Ken Jones and Marty Golden form a committee to evaluate the need for a study of surf perch.

10b Actions (follow up) – Committees for Consideration

- The following committees may be added, depending on interest, to address high priority issues and/or gaps that are not the focus of one of the committees listed above:
- Economics Committee – identify specific research projects needed
 - Marine Protected Area Committee – identify specific research projects needed
 - Stock Assessment – identify specific research projects needed

10c Actions (follow up) – Individuals & Organizations

- Forbes Darby and Marty Golden will prepare the NOAA Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Action Plan for 2007.
- Forbes Darby and Marty Golden will work with the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation (RBFF) to identify potential projects to enhance the public perception of saltwater anglers.
- Marty Golden working with the Team Members will identify potential future meeting dates and locations. Special attention will be given to scheduling meetings at dates and times of other meetings that Team members may be attending so as to reduce travel and time commitments of Team Members where possible.
- Marty Golden to serve as clearing house to have grant opportunities listed on California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team Discussion Board and/or other appropriate electronic media.

10c Actions (follow up) – Individuals & Organizations (continued)

- Marty Golden will review the rockfish study being conducted by Doyle Hannon to determine appropriate expansions that may be needed.
- Marty Golden will look into developing a grant writing seminar for people interested in applying for grants related to recreational fisheries issues.
- Marty Golden will investigate ways to involve the Recreational Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) recreational diver program for collecting stock data.
- Marty Golden will investigate mechanisms for funding travel to Action Team Meetings.
- Marty Golden will poll Action Team Members to determine desirability of maintaining and/or expanding the Action Team Discussion Board.
- Marty Golden expand e-mail list of anglers to be notified of issues and activities of interest.
- Marty Golden will gather information regarding Sportfish Restoration Act Programs with help from USFWS and CDFG.
- Jim Martin will provide names of spearfishing organizations that could provide contributions to the Action Team and be considered for membership on the Team.
- Ken Jones continue to represent the angling community regarding artificial reef issues related to the Montrose Settlement Program and participates on the Bay Delta Committee.

11 Research Needs

NOAA (Southwest Fisheries Science Center)

- Billfish data collection programs related to recommendations in the PCFFAB Report (regarding cooperative billfish research), including such things as state of maturity, diet studies, DNA research, etc.
- Better data on private boat catch for highly migratory species

Appendix 1

California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team

NOAA Fisheries

Regional Recreational Fisheries Coordinator	*Golden, Marty
Chief, Recreational Fisheries Unit	Kelly, Michael
National Recreational Fisheries Coordinator	*Darby, Forbes
Sustainable Fisheries	Heberer, Craig
Protected Resources	DeAngelis, Monica
Habitat Conservation	Hoffman, Bob
Office of Law Enforcement	Masters, Don
Alternate	*Quern, Lisa
SWFSC Economics	*Stohs, Stephen
SWFSC Billfish	Kohin, Suzy
SWFSC Rockfish	Butler, John
Alternate	Pinkard, Deanna

Government Partners

National Sea Grant Program (Santa Brabara)	Culver, Carrie
HQ National Marine Sanctuary Program	*Murphy, Michael T.
National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS)	Mobley, Chris
Alternate (GFNMS)	Karen Reyna
Marine Protected Area Office (Santa Cruz)	Wahle, Charlie
Alternate (NMFS)	Wooninck, Lisa
NOS Damage Assessment Restoration Program	Witting, Dave
Pacific Fisheries Management Council	Hansen, Don
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Fisher, Randy
Alternate	Porter, Russell
California Dept. of Fish & Game	*Carrie Wilson
Alternate	Roberts, Ed
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Temple, Ray

Sportfishing Partners

CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance	Bartley, Red
Alternate	Beuttler, John
Charter Boat Captain (Santa Barbara)	*Capt.Dave Bacon
Charter Boat Captain (Half Moon Bay)	Capt.Tom Mattusche
Coastside Fishing Club	Hall, Chris
Alternate	Wolford, Dan
IGFA	Farrior, Mike
Alternate	Morris, Marty
Landing – Long Beach Sport Fishing	Fukuto, Steve
Recreational Fishing Alliance	Greenberg, Joel
Alternate	*Martin, Jim
Golden Gate Fisherman's Association	Thomas, Roger
Alternate	*Stone, Craig

Appendix 1 – (Continued)
California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team

Sportfishing Partners - continued

San Diego Anglers

Alternate

Sportfishing Association of California

Fisherman's Warehouse (Tackle retail)

Alternate

United Anglers of Southern California

Alternate

United Anglers of California

United Pier & Shore Anglers of California

Catch-22 Fisheries

Konzal, Jim

Stasukevich, Al

Fletcher, Bob

Fukumoto, Glenn

Vallone, Sal

Raftican, Tom

Osborn, Bob

Strickland, Bob

***Jones, Ken**

***Capt. Paul Working**

Ad hoc Members

- Notes persons that attended August 19, 2006 Team Meeting

The California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team met on August 19, 2006. Several committees were formed to further goals identified by the Team. Committees are being established for Public Relations, Hooking Mortality Reduction, Slot Limits, Cooperative Research, and Surf Perch Research. Additional committees will be formed as needed.

Revised August 22, 2006